



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

PS

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/915,421	07/27/2001	Ryosuke Miyamoto	35.G2869	7005
5514	7590	06/01/2006	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			LU, TOM Y	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2624	

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/915,421	MIYAMOTO, RYOSUKE
Examiner	Art Unit	
Tom Y. Lu	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 March 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-56 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment and written response filed on 3/13/2006 has been entered and considered.
2. Claims 47-56 have been amended.
3. Claims 57-58 were cancelled.
4. Claims 1-56 are pending.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed on 3/13/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Nakai reference:

Applicant argues the Nakai reference fails to teach features of an information processing apparatus having a first receiving means that receives information from a first scanning apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first scanning apparatus, and that information from a second scanning apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the scanning apparatus. Additionally, applicant contends the Nakai reference does not teach the feature of having a second receiving means that receives information from a first printing apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first printing apparatus, and that receives information from a second printing apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second printing apparatus.

Upon further review of specification and in light applicant's arguments, the examiner respectfully disagrees as follows: the Nakai reference teaches copying machine 93 as the claimed

an image processing apparatus in a copying network system. The copying machine 93 includes the claimed first receiving means, second receiving means and controlling means. The first receiving means and the second receiving means are the communication interface 93a of the copying machine 93, column 35, line 4 because copying machine 93 are connected with other copying machines 91 and 92. The first receiving means receives information from copying machine 91 and copying machine 92. Copying machine 91 does not have a specimen image judging section, the claimed forgery-preventing function, column 32, lines 20-21. Copying machine 92 includes a simple copy-prohibited specimen image judging means, column 33, lines 45-46. The examiner notes since each copying machine contains a scanner and a printer. Therefore, the scanner of copying machine 92 is the claimed first scanning apparatus with a forgery-preventing function. The scanner of copying machine 91 is the second scanning apparatus with no forgery-preventing function. The printer of copying machine 92 is the first printing apparatus with forgery-preventing function. The printer of copying machine 91 is the second printing apparatus without forgery-preventing function. When copying machines 91, 92 and 93 are connected as a network, the copying machine 93 receives information about the other copying machines 91 and 92 about their specimen image judging capability. Therefore, in the event of copying machine 91 scans an image, but unable to print it due to lack of specimen image judging means, for example, copying machine 91 does not have printing center marks as described at column 31, lines 11-18, copying machine 93 is capable to route the image to copying machine 92 for printing, column 38, lines 40-45, which is the claimed "controlling means" for processing image data from one of the first or second scanning apparatus to send the received image data to one of the first or second printing apparatus based on the information

received by the first receiving means and the information received by the second receiving means.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakai et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,909,602).

a. Referring to Claim 1, Nakai discloses an image processing apparatus comprising: first receiving means that receives information from a first scanning apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first scanning apparatus, and receiving information from a second scanning apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second scanning apparatus; second receiving means that receives information from a first printing apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first printing apparatus, and receiving information from a second printing apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second printing apparatus; and controlling means that controls processing of image data received from one of the first or second scanning apparatuses to second the received image data to one of the first or second printing apparatuses based on the information received by the first receiving means and the information received by the second receiving means

(the Nakai reference teaches copying machine 93 as the claimed an image processing apparatus in a copying network system. The copying machine 93 includes the claimed first receiving means, second receiving means and controlling means. The first receiving means and the second receiving means are the communication interface 93a of the copying machine 93, column 35, line 4 because copying machine 93 are connected with other copying machines 91 and 92. The first receiving means receives information from copying machine 91 and copying machine 92. Copying machine 91 does not have a specimen image judging section, the claimed forgery-preventing function, column 32, lines 20-21. Copying machine 92 includes a simple copy-prohibited specimen image judging means, column 33, lines 45-46. The examiner notes since each copying machine contains a scanner and a printer. Therefore, the scanner of copying machine 92 is the claimed first scanning apparatus with a forgery-preventing function. The scanner of copying machine 91 is the second scanning apparatus with no forgery-preventing function. The printer of copying machine 92 is the first printing apparatus with forgery-preventing function. The printer of copying machine 91 is the second printing apparatus without forgery-preventing function. When copying machines 91, 92 and 93 are connected as a network, the copying machine 93 receives information about the other copying machines 91 and 92 about their specimen image judging capability. Therefore, in the event of copying machine 91 scans an image, but unable to print it due to lack of specimen image judging means, for example, copying machine 91 does not have printing center marks as

described at column 31, lines 11-18, copying machine 93 is capable to route the image to copying machine 92 for printing, column 38, lines 40-45).

- b. Referring to Claim 2, Nakai discloses wherein said controlling means sends image data received from the second scanning apparatus, which does not have a forgery-preventing function, to the first printing apparatus, which does have a forgery-preventing function (see explanation in Claim 1).
- c. Referring to Claim 3, Nakai discloses notifying means that notifies a user by a warning when the forgery-preventing function of the first scanning apparatus and the forgery preventing function of the first printing apparatus judges that the image data is data of a specific image (column 32, lines 66-67 and column 33 line 1 and lines 8-9; note the specific image is paper money column 21, line 15).
- d. Referring to Claim 4, Nakai discloses wherein the data of the specific image is information expressing a specific pattern or a digital watermark (note paper money contains a specific pattern or a watermark).
- e. Referring to Claim 5, Nakai discloses wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive the information form the first and second scanning apparatuses and from the first and second printing apparatuses when the image processing apparatus turns on (the copying machines are connected as a network, the existence and functionalities of the copying machines are known to others when they are turned on).
- f. Referring to Claim 6, Nakai discloses wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive information indicative of the presence or absence

of a forgery-preventing function when at least one of the first or second scanning apparatuses or the first or second printing apparatuses is changed (as explained before, the copying machines are connected as network, the change of the network topology will be known to the master copying machine like copying machine 93).

- g. Referring to Claim 7, Nakai discloses wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive the information from the first and second scanning apparatuses when the first and second scanning apparatuses receive a scanning indication, or the first and second printing apparatuses receive a printing indication, from the image processing apparatus (the specimen image judging section of copying machine 93 functions when a user wants to print suspicious document, like paper money on one of the copying machines on the network).
- h. Referring to Claim 8, Nakai discloses wherein the first receiving means and the second receiving means receive information indicative of the presence or absence of a forgery-preventing function when a new scanning apparatus or a new printing apparatus is connected to the image processing apparatus via a network (see figure 41 for networking).
- i. Referring to Claim 9, Nakai discloses wherein the controlling means sends the image data received from the first scanning apparatus, which has a forgery-preventing function, to one of the first or second printing apparatuses according to a section by an operator of the image processing apparatus (the image is judged at

copying machine 93 and sent to a copying machine upon confirmation of the user).

- j. Referring to Claim 10, Nakai discloses wherein the controlling means sends a permission signal to the first scanning apparatus permitting the first scanning apparatus, which has a forgery-preventing function, to send image data directly to one of the first or second printing apparatuses as selected by an operator, if the forgery-preventing function of the first scanning apparatus judges the image data as data of a specific image (the image is permitted by the copying machine 93 to be sent to copying machine 92 to print out a visible image with a center mark as explained in claim 1).
- k. Referring to Claim 11, Nakai discloses an image processing apparatus comprising: first receiving means that receives information from a first scanning apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first scanning apparatus, and receiving information from a second scanning apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second scanning apparatus; second receiving means that receives information from a first printing apparatus indicating the presence of a forgery-preventing function in the first printing apparatus, and receiving information from a second printing apparatus indicating the absence of a forgery-preventing function in the second printing apparatus (see explanation in Claim 1 above); inputting means that inputs information related to a selected scanner apparatus for image scanning (column 32, lines 60-67, column 33, lines 1-3, and column 34, lines 49-53. The level of the

specimen image judging means is selected by a user. The input means is shown in figure 16); and notifying means that notifies a user, based on the information received by the first receiving means, the information received by the second receiving means, and the information input by the input means, of at least one available printing apparatus for which image data can be sent to for printing (column 38, lines 42-45, the user has the final say on which printer to be used for outputting the image, which means the user is notified).

- l. Referring to Claim 12, Nakai discloses wherein the notifying means notifies the user that the first printing apparatus, which has a forgery-preventing function, is an available printing apparatus if the selected scanning apparatus is the second scanning apparatus, which does not have a forgery-preventing function (column 37, lines 58-65).
 - m. With regard to Claim 13, see explanation of Claim 12.
 - n. With regard to Claim 14, see explanation of Claim 3.
 - o. With regard to Claim 15, see explanation of Claim 4.
 - p. With regard to Claim 16, see explanation of Claim 5.
 - q. With regard to Claim 17, see explanation of Claim 6.
 - r. With regard to Claim 18, see explanation of Claim 7.
 - s. With regard to Claim 19, see explanation of Claim 8.
 - t. With regard to Claim 20, see explanation of Claim 9.

- u. Referring to Claim 21, Nakai discloses wherein the notifying means further notifies the user of the specification information for the user to select a preferable scanning apparatus and printing apparatus (column 37, lines 58-65).
- v. With regard to Claim 22, see explanation in Claim 1.
- w. With regard to Claim 23, see explanation in Claim 1. Note the copying machines are embedded with computer program to execute the steps recited in claim 1.
- x. With regard to Claim 24, see explanation of Claim 11.
- y. With regard to Claim 25, see explanation of Claim 11, Note the copying machines are embedded with computer program to execute the steps recited in claim 11.
- z. With regard to Claim 26, see explanation in Claim 1. the interface unit is the communication interface unit in copying machine 93 that receives information from the other copying machines like 91 and 92 and the processor unit is control panel 90.
 - aa. With regard to Claim 27, see explanation in Claim 2.
 - bb. With regard to Claim 28, see explanation in Claim 3.
 - cc. With regard to Claim 29, see explanation in Claim 4.
 - dd. With regard to Claim 30, see explanation in Claim 5.
 - ee. With regard to Claim 31, see explanation in Claim 6.
 - ff. With regard to Claim 32, see explanation in Claim 7.
 - gg. With regard to Claim 33, see explanation in Claim 8.
 - hh. With regard to Claim 34, see explanation in Claim 9.
- ii. With regard to Claim 35, see explanation in Claim 10.

- jj. With regard to Claim 36, see explanation in Claim 1; and the claimed point and display units are shown in figures 12 and 16.
- kk. With regard to Claim 37, the user is formed through the LCD display which copying machine is selected for printing the image (column 37, lines 46-65).
- ll. With regard to Claim 38, see explanation in Claim 2.
- mm. With regard to Claim 39, see explanation in Claim 3.
- nn. With regard to Claim 40, see explanation in Claim 4.
- oo. With regard to Claim 41, see explanation in Claim 5.
- pp. With regard to Claim 42, see explanation in Claim 6.
- qq. With regard to Claim 43, see explanation in Claim 7.
- rr. With regard to Claim 44, see explanation in Claim 8.
- ss. With regard to Claim 45, see explanation in Claim 9.
- tt. With regard to Claim 46, see explanation in Claim 10.
- uu. With regard to Claim 47, see explanation in Claim 1.
- vv. With regard to Claim 48, see explanation in Claim 2.
- ww. With regard to Claim 49, see explanation in Claim 3.
- xx. With regard to Claim 50, see explanation in Claim 4.
- yy. With regard to Claim 51, see explanation in Claim 5.
- zz. With regard to Claim 52, see explanation in Claim 6.
- aaa. With regard to Claim 53, see explanation in Claim 7.
- bbb. With regard to Claim 54, see explanation in Claim 8.
- ccc. With regard to Claim 55, see explanation in Claim 10.

ddd. With regard to Claim 56, see explanation in Claim 1.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom Y. Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-7393. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu can be reached on (571)-272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TYL



JINGGE WU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JINGGE WU", is written over a stylized, flowing line drawing that resembles a signature. Below the signature, the text "PRIMARY EXAMINER" is printed in a smaller, sans-serif font.